GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4725
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2001
SPARES FOR BOFORS
RAMJI MANJHI

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether M/s Bofors which has since been taken over by the Government of Sweden, accorded approval that India may avail of the arrangements, technology, services and assistance contracted for in the supply contract dated March 24, 1986;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made use of the offer and procured the spares to make the Bofors Gun functional which were lying idle for want of spares;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any progress has been made in the setting up of indigenous production of spares for the upkeep and overhaul of the Bofors Gun system;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) to (c): The Government in a meeting held on 15th June, 1999 reviewed the ban placed on the business dealings with M/s Bofors in the light of the changed situation and inter alia approved that the embargo placed on transactions with the then M/s A B Bofors, Sweden by the

Government on 31.1.1990 need not visit the successor company, the present `Celsius` of Sweden, which is state controlled.

The above directions however, shall be without prejudice to the on going investigations, actions due, measures that may be entailed and reserving to Government the right to be reimbursed amounts illegitimately paid.

Subsequently, three contracts for procurement of spares for 155mm FH 77b Gun System were signed with M/s Celsius, Sweden.

(d) to (f): The process of indigenisation is on going and a task force has been constituted under aegis of Department of Defence Production & Supplies for indigenisation and development of spares for the gun system by various agencies including Ordnance Factory Board, Electrical and Mechanical Engineer and Public Sector UndertakingsSo far 1314 items of spares have been indigenised.